

HandiCapabil

Magazine about a workshop for people with handicaps

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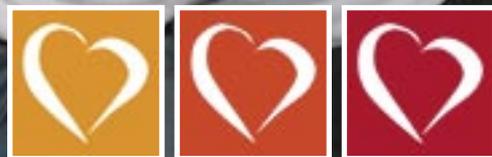


**“The victory is not mandatory,
binding is fight!”**

Nicolae Steinhardt

2%

Thanks!



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Dear readers,

“The victory is not mandatory, binding is just fight,” Father Nicolae Steinhardt tells us in his famous book “Journal of Happiness.”

And we take these thoughts and we live as such, and certainly each of you do the same thing.

I often think of our youth and their families, ever since they knew of their child’s illness, they didn’t hesitate to fight. No matter how hard life was for them, they always managed to find the strength to move forward. They fought and still fight, although we know it is not easy.

From year to year, life seems more difficult. We are tempted to say that society does nothing for us. Or not enough! But we are part of society, so we have a duty and obligation to always find solutions to our problems, to fight for ourselves and our loved ones! And if sometimes the ones who are not up to expectations and our needs, we still hope that God never leaves us and is with us in our fight!

I salute you on behalf of the team,

Cristina Ciubotaru

**Thanks to Veronica Stan, Oana Diana Neacsu
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The year 2010

Year 2010 was a crisis year but positive things can happen during these periods. For us was the same. On the one hand we felt the crisis (in sponsorships and candle selling), on the other hand we also had positive results (with 2% program and with a new activity with Kern Liebers Company).

Let us take it step by step: “2% from the income tax”, as many of you already know, can be donated to an association by any person. We strive every year to benefit of a part of this money. Until now we had success, the amount has been increasing every year. Therefore, at the end of 2010, we received from the boarding taxes, almost 8500 euro. For us, it has been a success and a special joy. We would like to thank everybody who had directed 2% to our association and for their trust. We are, especially, grateful to those who looked among their family, friends, and colleagues for persons who could help us. Without them, we certainly wouldn't accomplish so many things. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Another positive thing from last year was that Kern Liebers Company wanted to start collaboration with our association. This advantage was that we were able to give our young people an occupation which they enjoy and the fact that we are remunerated for this. We do not have to look for raw material and for customers anymore. It is a relief and a certainty. We thank Kern Liebers Company for this opportunity and for their faith in us.

Although the candle selling has decreased in 2010, this does not mean that we won't make candles anymore. This activity is representative for us and there are many persons who know about us and buy from us. So the young people continue making candles too, but in a lower quantity because now they are doing other activities as well.

The companies that have been helping us for so many years through sponsorship have had a difficult year and they couldn't help us last year. We hope that, step by step the crisis will pass and they will be able to help us again in our work.

We start this year filled with hope and confidence that those who stood by our side will still help us and we will continue what we are doing as well as before! Therefore, we wish you, what we wish for us - a better year.



Christmas Market

Hmmm ... can you feel it? Orange smell, apple and cinnamon, mulled wine and sarmalute with mamaliguta! Yes, a real Christmas market was installed here, in our workhouse which we decorated very nicely for getting into the Christmas' war atmosphere.

As you know during 3-5 December or association in collaboration with other associations (CopiiiRo, Sindrom Down, Miscarea Ecleziala Carmelitana, Casa Martha, S.O.S. Satele copiilor, Colegiul Goethe, Geron si St.Egidio foundation), had the pleasure of hosting the well known Christmas fair where our beneficiaries exhibited for selling hand made Christmas products for presents.

The carols, the Christmas tree decorated with all kinds of ornaments, mamaliguta with warm „sarmalute“ (forcemeat rolls in cabbage leaves), the vapors coming out from the mugs filled with hot chocolate, mulled wine and tea and the small stands full of products made the atmosphere filled with emotion and joy in the expectation of Santa Clause and of baby Jesus.

Hoping that we reminded you of what we lived in that period, we leave you to reflect and invite you to come again and live these moments with us at the next Christmas Market and not only ...



Christmas Party

Music, dance, Christmas carols... in a single word: PARTY! That was the word on the lips of our young people during the last few weeks of the year. On Dec. 22nd, 2010 we finished our year at the workshop and had the last party of the year.

It included a long string of surprises and great suspense (Even Santa Claus played a practical joke on us). Before the games began, we were visited by a group of carolers from the Pentecostal church who enchanted our ears and enlivened us for what was to follow. To the rhythms of dance music Santa left gifts under our beautiful green Christmas tree thrilling our young people.

Special treats of the season were placed on our decorated tables and our senses were innundated with their flavors and smells, washed down with punch, tea and orange juice.

During the closing moments of our party we had a more serious moment when a priest, invited by us, prayed a prayer of thanksgiving for all God had done in the last year.

The party was hardly over before everyone started talking about what we're going to do and wear at our next celebration, knowing that next comes Mardi Gras.



I am Adriana (volunteer) ...

... I'm Minodora's mother. Since I first came to the Protected Workshop I have felt that I've entered a large united family. That makes me very happy.

I come here with great enjoyment, and the young people, every one of them, represent special wonderfully made beings, sincere, always clean and hard-working. Rarely have I seen such a gathering.

When I come to cook for the youth on Thursdays, they greet me with smiles on their lips, making my day better, as I put my troubles aside, and step forward together with you, my friends.



I am Iosif Dicher (volunteer) ...

... and I live in Bucharest. Around two years ago I had the privilege of meeting a group of people in whom God has put lots of beauty... I could talk of their friendship, but that's not sufficient. I could talk about their goodness, but there's more to it than that. Or maybe about the joy that they find in simple daily activities... but not even that would be sufficient to describe them. It's something that they express with rich warmth, a sincerity hard to equal and with their strength to give without asking anything in return. Pure and simple, they call you friend and they surround you with love.

Over time, I've learned to braid wicks, to arrange sewing needles and many other interesting things. They've taught me to not focus on possible mistakes, to not be in competition with others or even myself. They've taught me that I can simply belong to something. In a community which no one is „someone” and all are equal, everyone can enjoy the gift of others, and when it's time to dance, the steps or the rhythm aren't so important... rather the joy of being together.

I'm a psychologist. I've learned that sometimes life teaches you more than books can. That statistics and diagnostics can be overturned, conquered, ignored... that we can be who we are without creating standards, without breaking the world into groups, without making hierarchies. That we can enjoy one another, can learn from one another and can dance even when we have problems.

I've neglected to mention until now that I'm speaking of our friends at the Protected Workshop. It might have been intentional that I've left this until the end hoping to make you curious. And may all who read these lines know, that I haven't embellished in the least the truth, but rather I can only relate in small measure what can be done with a little money, big hearts and beautiful characters.

Quoting one of the young people about whom I've been talking, I could say, „You bet, buddy!” our world really can be a better place.



I am Mihaela ... (beneficiary),

... I'm a hardworking girl, good, obedient, smiley, sensitive (whiny) and sometimes helpful. On March 23, 2005 my father took me in Baneasa, at the Paulico Center, where I made friends and where I could start working. In 2008 the center from Baneasa was disbanded, and not to stay home, my father brought me to the Boxberg House where I met new colleagues with whom sometimes I've got along well, sometimes not because some were a little annoying. At the workshop I like to pack products for the Retro House, put the needles on the rails, to clean the moulds, listen to music during the break when Igor plays it from the phone, I like to learn to make food and wash dishes. Now I get along well with all my colleges, even though sometimes they upset me. I like learning increasingly more things at the Protected Workshops. Apart from the workshop program, but sometimes even during program I also participate in the activities of the Down Syndrome Association. There I put seeds on the paintings, make trinkets, dancing, pack products, play basketball and I also participate in competitions organized by Special Olympics in the Retezat Mountains and go on trips with the people from Down Syndrome. In my spare time I like to iron laundry, watch TV, listen to music and I want to specify that I'm a fan of Michael Jackson.



I am Cristi ... (beneficiary),

... I'm a calm guy, patient, rarely shaken, resourceful in certain situations. I'm passionate about Japanese art and Japanese traditions, I would like to learn Japanese language, learn to play the guitar and dancing.

Before coming to the workshop I finished the School of Post and Telecommunications. I liked it, but I didn't learned to much there, I didn't take the final exam because I knew I couldn't succeed to work in that domain.

My mother brought me to the workshop, I was looking for a place to come, not to stay home, a place where I can do something. From the beginning I liked the workshop, the people from there, the candles, the relationship between colleagues, especially as they help each other ... I adapted quickly, I liked to working here from the first start.

Now I love the most to put the needles on the rails, but I like to do the fuses too. I hate to clean the kitchen because it's too hard for me, neither cleaning the toilets. I wouldn't change anything at the workshop, maybe some PVC entrance doors would be different ...

In my spare time I like to surf on the internet, to meet with my colleagues and I walk with my friends.



The Candle Night 2011

As you well know, the Candle Night is an event started by our association that has become a tradition. It is a night where the candles made by our young people can be seen by the audience.

This event will be definitely on the 2011 list but for now we won't tell you anything except that the event will take place in the same location like last year, on saturday,

April 16th, 2011
at 19:30 o'clock
on str. Jules Michelet, nr. 9

(Magheru Boulevard next to Great Britain Embassy, Romana Square).

The rest of the details is a surprise!

Thanks

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